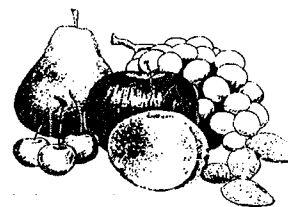


California Fruit & Nut Review



Frequency: Monthly, Except November
Released: April 15, 1997

(USPS 598-290)
VOL. 17 NO. 4



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Fruit and Nut Production	1
Citrus and Strawberry Production	2
U.S. Per Capita Fruit Consumption	3

MARCH CROP COMMENTS

Warm, dry weather throughout March was ideal for bees and pollination. A dryer than normal February and March brought the need for early irrigation in many orchards. Stone fruit and almonds completed bloom, while walnuts, pistachios, and pecans began bloom. Apple varieties were in various stages of bloom. The warm weather brought early and vigorous growth to grapes. Harvest of grapefruit in the desert area was peaking, while beginning to gain momentum in other areas. Quality has been good so far, but with small sizes. Defects reported included wind scar, sunburn, and sheephose.

Packing of lemons in the South coast area was active with good grades. Some scar, sunburn, and scale were reported. Tangerine picking was active with good quality and color. Defects included scar, sunburn, and stem punctures. Approximately three-fourths of the Navel orange crop had been picked by April 1. Quality has been excellent with very large fruit size. Some puff and crease have been reported. Picking of Valencia oranges, mainly for export, was active throughout the State. Volume picked was less than 5 percent of the total crop, but early reports indicate good to excellent quality.

FRUIT AND NUT STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Crop	Bearing Acreage		Yield Per Acre		Estimated Production		Production Percent Change	Next Crop Update
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996		
NUT CROPS	- Acres -		- Pounds -		- 1,000 Pounds -			
Almonds (Shelled) 1/	400,000	410,000	925	1,270	370,000	520,000	41	May 9, 1997
Pecans	2,600	2,700	1,120	593	2,900	2,100	-28	Sept. 11, 1997
Pistachio (In-Shell)								
Marketable In-Shell	---	---	---	---	107,500	81,000		
Shelling Stock	---	---	---	---	40,500	25,000		
Total	60,300	64,100	2,450	1,650	148,000	106,000	-28	Aug. 29, 1997
Walnuts (In-Shell)	169,000	169,000	- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
			1.38	1.21	234.0	208.0	-11	July 11, 1997
FRUIT CROPS	- Acres -		- Tons -		- 1,000 Tons -			
Apples	35,000	34,000	12.15	13.25	425.0	450.0	6	Aug. 12, 1997
Apricots	19,800	19,900	2.73	3.82	54.0	76.0	41	June 12, 1997
Cherries	12,500	12,900	1.58	1.91	19.8	24.6	24	June 12, 1997
Grapes, Raisin 2/	268,000	270,000	9.27	8.15	2,252.0	2,200.0	-2	July 11, 1997
Grapes, Table	76,200	76,000	9.28	9.21	707.0	700.0	-1	July 11, 1997
Grapes, Wine	301,000	305,000	7.56	6.89	2,275.0	2,100.0	-8	July 11, 1997
Grapes, All 2/	645,200	651,000	8.44	7.68	5,234.0	5,000.0	-5	July 11, 1997
Olives	33,700	33,700	2.30	4.93	77.5	166.0	114	Aug. 12, 1997
Peaches, Clingstone	28,100	31,000	15.40	17.65	432.5	546.5	26	June 12, 1997
Peaches, Freestone	32,500	33,000	7.70	9.60	251.0	316.5	26	June 12, 1997
Pears, Bartlett	19,100	19,100	12.90	13.40	247.0	255.0	3	June 12, 1997
Pears, Other	4,800	4,800	4.17	6.25	20.0	30.0	50	Aug. 12, 1997
Prunes (Dried Weight)	78,800	79,700	2.30	2.72	181.0	217.0	20	June 4, 1997
BERRIES	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996		
	- Acres -		- Cwt. -		- 1,000 Cwt. -			
Strawberries	23,600	25,200	540	540	12,960	13,608	5	Dec. 11, 1997
CITRUS CROPS 3/	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97	1995-96	1996-97		
	- Acres -		- Cartons -		- 1,000 Cartons -			
Grapefruit, All	18,800	18,800	862	851	16,200	18,400	14	July 11, 1997
Lemons	46,300	46,300	908	950	42,000	44,000	5	July 11, 1997
Oranges, navel	121,000	125,000	628	592	76,000	86,000	13	July 11, 1997
Oranges, Valencia	75,000	74,000	746	703	56,000	56,000	NC	July 11, 1997
Tangerines 4/	8,700	8,700	598	598	5,200	5,800	12	July 11, 1997

1/ Almond forecast released May 9 - 12:00 PM.

2/ The following acreage was enrolled in the Raisin Industry Diversion Program (RID) in the year specified: 1996, zero acres; 1995, 25,000 acres; 1994, zero acres. These acres were deducted from bearing acres for yield calculations.

3/ Grapefruit -- 33.5 lbs. per carton; Lemons -- 38.0 lbs. per carton; Oranges -- 37.5 lbs. per carton; Tangerines -- 37.5 lbs. per carton.

4/ Includes tangelos, tangerines and tangors.

Navel Oranges: The 1996-97 California Navel orange forecast is 86.0 million cartons, up 10 percent from the January forecast and 13 percent from last season. Harvest of the Navel crop has progressed with approximately three-fourths of the crop picked. Quality has been excellent with very large fruit size. Some puff and crease have been reported.

Valencia Oranges: The April Valencia orange forecast is 56.0 million cartons, up 8 percent from the January forecast and unchanged from last year. Picking of Valencia oranges, mainly for export, is active throughout the State. Volume picked is less than 5 percent of the total crop, but early reports indicate good to excellent quality.

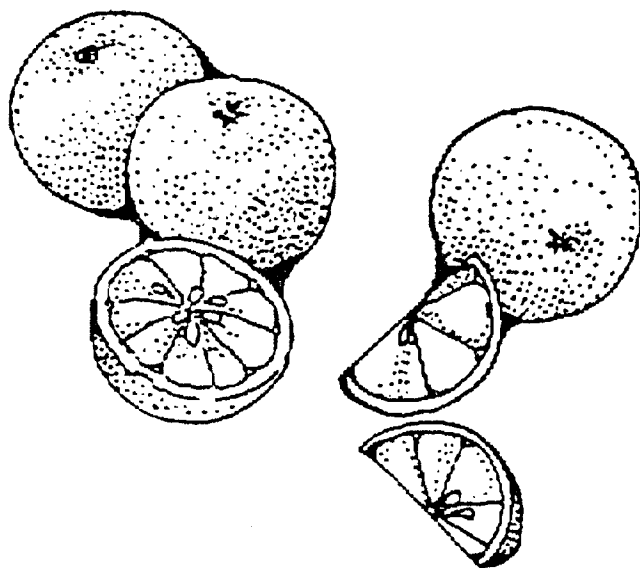
Grapefruit: The 1996-97 California all grapefruit production is forecast at 18.4 million cartons. This is a 2 percent increase from the January forecast of 18.0 million cartons. Crop harvest is peaking in the desert area, while beginning to gain momentum in areas farther north. Quality to date is good. Fruit size is relatively small this year with most fruit sizing on 40s or 48s with some 36s's. Defects include wind scar, sunburn, and sheeppnose.

Lemons: The 1996-97 California lemon forecast is 44.0 million cartons. This is unchanged from the January forecast and up 5 percent from the 1995-96 production level of 42.0 million cartons. Grades throughout the State have been fair to good. South coast packing is at a peak. Grade defects are wind scar, tip injury, sunburn, botrytis bumps, and scale. District II graded down due to coarse texture and heavy scar with some lots having high color.

Tangerines: The 1996-97 California tangerine forecast is 5.80 million cartons. This is up 7 percent from the January forecast and 12 percent from the 1995-96 production level of 5.20 million cartons. Quality and color are generally good. Defects include scarring, sunburn, and stem punctures.

FLORIDA CITRUS

Groves, trees, and fruit remaining for harvest were all in very good condition during March. Rainfall for the month was just about normal with some locations reporting above and some below average for the 31-day period. New growth and bloom were abundant during March as the Citrus Belt experienced a near normal bloom period. No adverse weather occurred during the month. Harvest of early and mid-season oranges ended by mid-month as most processors had started utilizing larger amounts of Valencia oranges and all grapefruit. Harvest of Honey tangerines and Temples was slowing toward the end of the month as supplies were running low. Caretakers have been very busy cutting cover crops, post bloom nutritional spraying, and pushing and burning dead trees. The spring applications of herbicides and fertilizers have started in all areas. Utilization of early and mid-season oranges, including Navels, is virtually complete with about 134 million boxes used to April 1, 1997. A little more than 20 million boxes of Valencias were used through March. About 39.5 million boxes of all seedless grapefruit have been used. Seedy grapefruit certifications are just about 420 thousand boxes. Utilization of all tangerines through March is nearly 5.70 million boxes. Temple harvest is at 2.36 million boxes. Tangelo movement is at 3.90 million boxes.



CITRUS FRUITS PRODUCTION:

1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 Forecast, by State and U.S.

Crop & State	1994-95	1995-96	Forecast 1996-97
ORANGES: 1/	- 1,000 Cartons -		
California, All	112000	132,000	142,000
Navel & Misc.	70000	76,000	86,000
Valencia	42000	56,000	56,000
Florida	411000	406,400	442,400
Texas	2110	1,880	2,840
Arizona	2100	3,300	2,600
ALL U.S. ORANGES	527210	543,580	589,840
GRAPEFRUIT: 2/			
California, All	18600	16,200	18,400
Desert Valley	6600	---	3/
Other Areas	12000	---	3/
Florida	111400	104,700	118,000
Texas	9300	9,100	10,600
Arizona	2800	2,400	2,000
ALL U.S. GRAPEFRUIT	142100	132,400	149,000
LEMONS: 4/			
California	40000	42,000	44,000
Arizona	7200	10,200	6,000
ALL U.S. LEMONS	47200	52,200	50,000
TANGERINES: 5/			
California 6/	5000	5,200	5,800
Florida	7100	9,000	12,600
Arizona	1300	2,000	1,300
ALL U.S. TANGERINES	13400	16,200	19,700

1/ ORANGES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 45 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.

2/ GRAPEFRUIT: Arizona, 1 carton = 32 lbs.; California, 1 carton = 33.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 42.5 lbs.; Texas, 1 carton = 40 lbs.

3/ Desert and Other Area Grapefruit forecasts combined to All Grapefruit beginning in 1995-96.

4/ LEMONS: All, 1 carton = 38 lbs.

5/ TANGERINES: California and Arizona, 1 carton = 37.5 lbs.; Florida, 1 carton = 47.5 lbs.

6/ Includes tangelos, tangerines, and tangors.

Strawberries: Strawberry production in California is forecast at 12.7 million cwt., 8 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is expected to total 22,600 acres, down 11 percent from last year. The yield calculates to 560 cwt. per acre, 3 percent above last year. Southern California strawberry production to date is up 8 percent from last year. However, the central coast area, which accounts for approximately two-thirds of total production, has just begun harvesting. While the yield should be near the 1996 level, reduced acreage accounts for the decrease in total production.

FRESH FRUIT: UNITED STATES PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, 1976 TO DATE 1/

Year 2/	CITRUS FRUIT					TOTAL CITRUS 3/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT					
	Oranges & Temples	Tangerine s & Tangelos	Lemons	Limes	Grapefruit		Apples	Apricots	Avocados	Bananas	Cherries	Cran-berries
	----- Pounds -----											
1976	14.7	2.4	1.9	0.3	9.3	28.5	17.1	0.1	0.7	19.3	0.8	0.2
1977	13.4	2.6	2.1	0.2	7.7	26.2	16.5	0.1	1.2	19.2	0.6	0.2
1978	13.4	2.1	2.1	0.2	8.4	26.2	18.0	0.1	1.1	20.2	0.5	0.2
1979	11.5	2.0	1.9	0.3	7.3	23.0	17.1	0.1	1.3	21.0	0.7	0.1
1980	14.3	2.2	1.9	0.4	7.3	26.1	19.2	0.1	0.8	20.8	0.7	0.1
1981	12.4	2.0	2.0	0.4	6.7	23.5	16.9	0.1	2.1	21.5	0.5	0.2
1982	11.7	2.1	2.1	0.4	7.2	23.4	17.5	0.1	1.6	22.5	0.5	0.2
1983	15.0	2.3	2.3	0.5	7.8	28.0	18.3	0.1	1.9	21.3	0.7	0.1
1984	11.9	2.1	2.2	0.5	6.0	22.5	18.4	0.1	2.2	22.2	0.7	0.1
1985	11.6	1.5	2.3	0.6	5.5	21.5	17.3	0.2	1.8	23.5	0.4	0.1
1986	13.4	1.6	2.5	0.6	6.1	24.2	17.8	0.1	1.5	25.8	0.5	0.1
1987	12.8	1.8	2.5	0.5	6.4	23.9	20.8	0.1	2.4	25.0	0.7	0.1
1988	13.9	1.8	2.5	0.6	6.7	25.4	19.8	0.2	1.6	24.3	0.5	0.1
1989	12.2	1.7	2.4	0.7	6.6	23.6	21.2	0.1	1.5	24.7	0.6	0.2
1990	12.4	1.3	2.6	0.7	4.4	21.4	19.6	0.2	1.1	24.4	0.4	0.2
1991	8.5	1.4	2.6	0.8	5.9	19.1	18.2	0.1	1.4	25.1	0.4	0.3
1992	12.9	1.9	2.5	1.0	6.0	24.4	19.2	0.2	1.4	27.3	0.5	0.2
1993	14.2	1.9	2.7	1.0	6.2	26.0	19.2	0.1	2.2	26.8	0.4	0.2
1994	13.1	2.1	2.7	1.0	6.1	24.9	19.6	0.2	1.3	28.1	0.5	0.3
1995	12.3	2.0	2.9	1.2	6.0	24.4	18.9	0.1	1.4	27.4	0.2	0.3
Year 2/	NON-CITRUS FRUIT CONTINUED									TOTAL NON-CITRUS 3/	TOTAL FRUIT 3/	
	Grapes	Kiwifruit 4/	Mangos	Peaches & Nectarines	Pears	Pineapples	Papayas	Plums and Prunes	Straw-berries			
	----- Pounds -----											
1976	3.5	N/A	0.2	5.1	2.8	1.2	0.2	1.3	1.7	54.1	82.6	
1977	3.5	N/A	0.2	5.1	2.4	1.4	0.3	1.6	1.9	54.0	80.2	
1978	3.1	N/A	0.2	6.1	2.3	1.5	0.3	1.5	2.1	57.1	83.3	
1979	3.5	N/A	0.2	6.7	2.3	1.5	0.2	1.6	1.9	58.1	81.1	
1980	4.0	N/A	0.3	7.1	2.6	1.5	0.2	1.5	2.0	60.9	87.0	
1981	4.1	N/A	0.2	6.9	2.8	1.6	0.2	1.7	2.2	60.9	84.4	
1982	5.7	0.1	0.3	5.4	2.9	1.7	0.2	1.1	2.4	62.0	85.4	
1983	5.6	0.1	0.4	5.4	3.0	1.7	0.2	1.4	2.3	62.5	90.4	
1984	6.1	0.2	0.4	6.7	2.5	1.5	0.3	1.8	3.0	66.2	88.7	
1985	6.8	0.1	0.4	5.5	2.8	1.5	0.2	1.4	3.0	65.1	86.5	
1986	7.1	0.2	0.5	5.8	3.0	1.8	0.2	1.3	2.9	68.6	92.8	
1987	7.1	0.3	0.6	6.1	3.5	1.7	0.2	1.9	3.1	73.5	97.4	
1988	7.7	0.3	0.4	6.8	3.2	1.8	0.2	1.7	3.3	71.8	97.2	
1989	7.9	0.3	0.5	5.9	3.2	2.0	0.1	1.4	3.3	73.1	96.6	
1990	7.9	0.5	0.5	5.5	3.2	2.1	0.2	1.6	3.2	70.6	91.9	
1991	7.3	0.4	0.9	6.4	3.2	1.9	0.2	1.4	3.6	70.7	89.8	
1992	7.2	0.3	0.7	6.0	3.1	2.0	0.2	1.8	3.6	73.8	98.2	
1993	7.0	0.5	0.9	6.0	3.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	3.6	73.9	99.9	
1994	7.3	0.5	1.0	5.5	3.5	2.0	0.3	1.6	4.1	75.8	100.7	
1995	7.6	0.5	1.1	5.4	3.4	1.9	0.4	0.9	3.8	73.5	97.9	

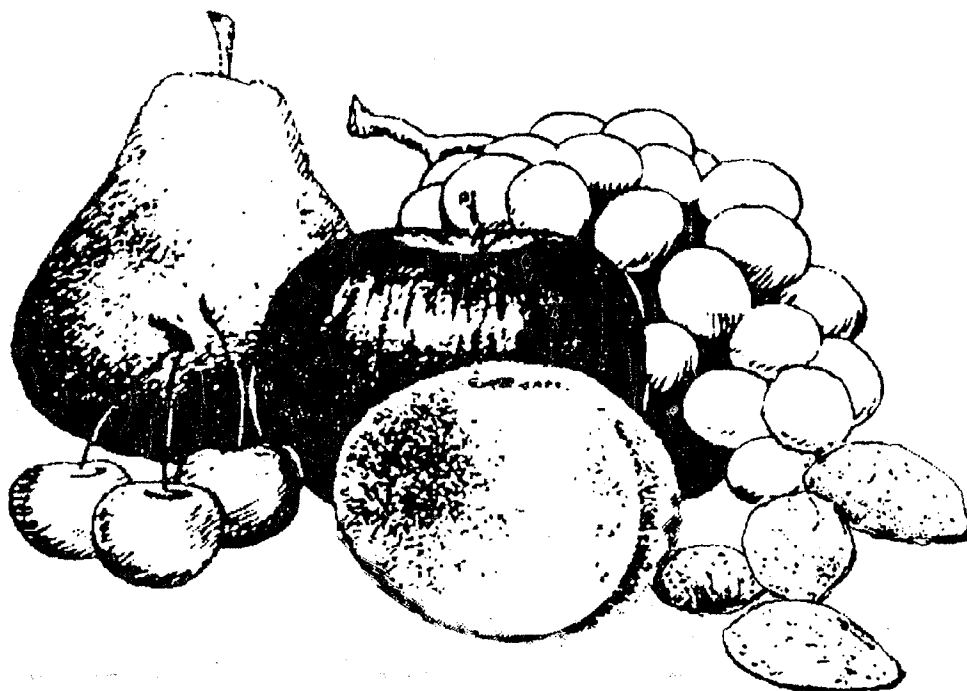
1/ All non-citrus fruit data are on calendar-year basis, except for apples (year begins in August of the year shown), grapes, and pears (year begins in July). For oranges, Temples, tangerines, and tangelos, year begins in November; grapefruit in September; and lemons in August of prior year. Lime year begins in April of the year shown.

2/ Preliminary 1995 figures.

3/ Some figures may not add due to rounding.

4/ Reporting began in 1982.

SOURCE: Economic Research Service, USDA.



JIM TIPPETT, State Statistician
DWAINE NELSON, Deputy State Statistician
Gary Nelson -- Doug Flohr -- Mark Aitken -- Juan Albelo
Shawn Clark -- Troy Joshua -- Tom Marr -- Tom McNair
Scot Rumburg -- Bob Seffrin -- Martha Hartmans
Agricultural Statisticians, Estimates Group, (916) 498-5177

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICIAN
POST OFFICE BOX 1258
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-1258

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CALIFORNIA FRUIT & NUT REVIEW
April 15, 1997

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA PERMIT NO. G-38